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Gothic Sports

ANIKE HAGE

TOKYOPOP

TOKYOPOP

GothicSports

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH DRESS TO IMPRESS!

It's been a hard road, but Anya is determined to start her own soccer team. And thanks to her friend Feliz's inspirational Gothic Lolita jersey design, the topsy-turvy team has started to attract some serious attention. Do they have what it takes to compete with the official school team? It's going to take more than indie cred and high fashion if they want to take their game to the next level!

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DRAMA

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ANYA has a dream: to start her own soccer team at her high school now that she's failed to find acceptance in any of the school's existing sports teams. She has a stubborn streak a mile wide, as well as an aversion to Leon that she just can't explain.

LUISE (LOO) has known Anya since elementary school. They rekindled their friendship when they reunited at Lucrece High. Loo is a real ray of light in Anya's dreary school days.

JULIA has been a member of the school's soccer team for years, but she never gets to play because the coach doesn't believe girls make good soccer players. Instead, she's sat on the bench—even during practice! When Anya establishes her own team, Julia's on board immediately.

FILIZ is (in)famous for her unusual fashion sense and is also a bit of an outsider in Anya's new class. But when it becomes clear that there won't be enough people for the new team, she comes up with a brilliant way to attract plenty of attention.

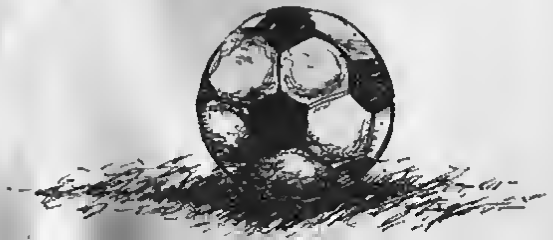
DELIA is actually on the basketball team, but the principal assigns her to coach the new team as it trains for its all-important first game. Though Anya is at first distrustful of Delia's close relationship with Marie, she soon sees that Delia's a great girl who really wants to lend a hand.

LEON has known Anya since elementary school, but Anya clearly doesn't have any good memories of him, and she's against Leon's participation on her team from the beginning. The team desperately needs strong players though, so she's forced to override her distaste for him and let him play—for now.

THE STORY SO FAR:

Anya transfers to Lucrece High, dreaming of sharing in the athletic glory of one of its championship sports teams. But joining one of the teams turns out to be harder than she ever expected. The basketball team's queen bee, Marie, thinks Anyo is too short and inexperienced, and the soccer coach thinks girls aren't worth giving any playing time. But Anya won't be deterred. Together with some of her new friends, she starts her own soccer team—with a twist; they decide to forego traditional soccer jerseys for Gothic Lolita-style uniforms that are designed and sewn by the enthusiastic Filiz.

There's just one problem left: In order to be recognized as an official team at school, they have to be approved by the principal, who has become suspicious of new ideas over the years. But Anya manages to convince him to take part in an unusual bet: If the new team plays a match against the well-established school team, he'll entertain the thought of official status for the Gothic Sports team. The chances he'll relent seem slim to none, but the team trains hard for their big day. Now that the day has arrived—how will the game turn out?



FOUL PLAY

KEVIN
AGE: 16
HEIGHT: 1.86 M (6'1")
WEIGHT: 80 KILOS
(176 LBS)
SIGN: TAURUS
LIKES: GOTHIC
FASHION, MUSIC,
SWORDS
DISLIKES: POSERS, ICE
HOCKEY, HIS OWN
GANG, COOKING
EVENINGS WITH OLGA

Shhh
Shhh
Shhh
THE RULES OF THE GAME ARE SIMPLE.
Just a few minutes left!
NO CHANCE OF WINNING...
...NO FUTURE AS A TEAM!
Come on!

WHO DID I THINK I WAS FOOLING? I KEPT TELLING MYSELF WE WERE ON TO SOMETHING REALLY GREAT.
THEY'RE ONLY HERE BECAUSE...
WELL...I ACTUALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHY THEY'RE HERE.
BUT I REALLY OWE THEM SOMETHING!
SWIP!

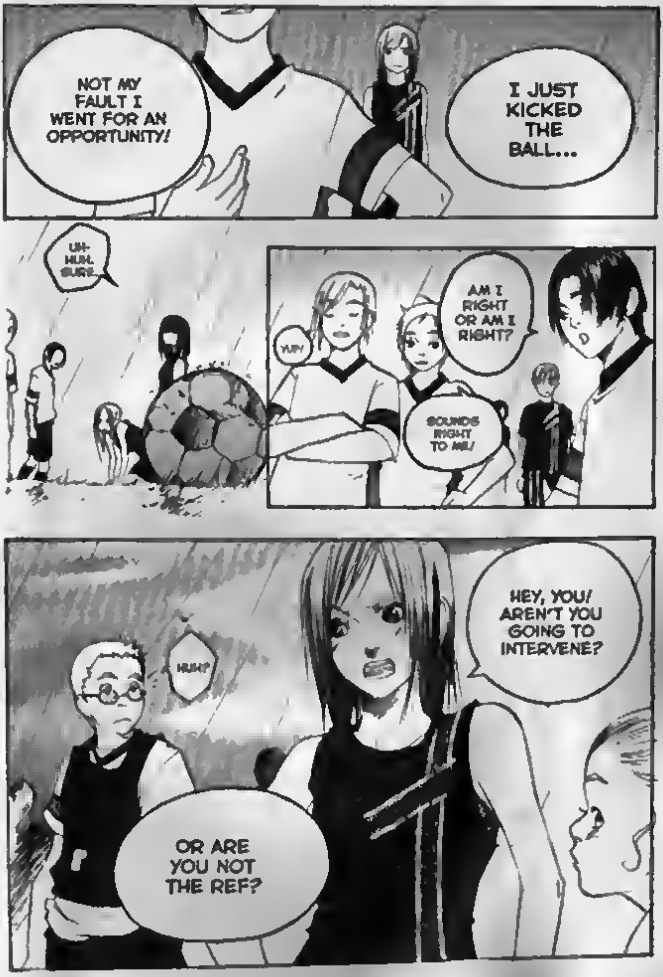
IF WE LOSE, THEY'LL BE THE LAUGHINGSTOCK OF THE ENTIRE SCHOOL!
FOR ME?
FOR MY GOALS?
WE JUST CAN'T LOSE!

AND THEY...
THEY'RE WATCHING! I'M NOT GOING TO GET OFF EASILY!
WATCH OUT!
HUH?

SPLATSH
ANYA!
I GUESS I'LL TAKE THIS ONE SITTING DOWN!
EVERYTHING OKAY?!

IDIOT!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
CHILL OUT! IT'S JUST SOCCER!
PLITSCH
PLITSCH
NO VIP TREATMENT FOR YOU!
THESE LITTLE THINGS ARE BOUND TO HAPPEN!
OHH ..

THAT WAS A FOUL!
!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EARS!
WHAT LITTLE THINGS?!
HUH?
RELAAAX!


NOT MY FAULT I WENT FOR AN OPPORTUNITY!
I JUST KICKED THE BALL...
UH-HUH. SURE.
YUP!
AM I RIGHT OR AM I RIGHT?
SOUNDS RIGHT TO ME!
HUH?
HEY, YOU! AREN'T YOU GOING TO INTERVENE?
OR ARE YOU NOT THE REF?

...I DIDN'T SEE A FOUL AT ALL!
OH, REALLY?!
TO BE HONEST...
SCRATCH
...
THEN I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT THE COACH HAS TO SAY!
HE'S NOT EVEN LOOKING AT THE FIELD!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

IT'S CALLED GAME ANALYSIS!
DO YOU THINK HE WROTE DOWN THAT YOU'RE A TOTAL IDIOT?
SHHH!!
HE'S WRITING DOWN OUR MISTAKES!
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

I'LL GIVE YOU SOME FRIENDLY ADVICE.
NOW'S THE MOMENT WHEN YOU APOLOGIZE PROFUSELY!
SHE DOESN'T!
PAT
Whatever you say.
I'm done with you!
HMM.
MAKE ME!
HA!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
THERE APPEARS TO BE A BIT OF A PROBLEM HERE.

BUT OF COURSE, I CAN GO INTERVENE IF YOU THINK IT'S BEST.
I KNOW THESE BOYS... THEY PROBABLY WELCOME THE BREAK FROM PLAYING.
TEN MINUTES OF PLAY AND WE'RE ALREADY LEADING TWO-ZERO!
JUST LET ME FINISH THIS SENTENCE.
OLD FART!
LET THEM FIGHT IT OUT!

ALL THOSE NOTES YOU'RE TAKING.
WHAT A GREAT EXAMPLE!
?
...
SCRAT
SCRAT
WHEN I THINK OF OUR LAST COACH...
WELL, LET'S JUST SAY HE NEVER GAVE IT THE KIND OF EFFORT YOU ARE.
GET HIM!
IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU HERE!
SCRAT
SCRAT

TCH!
SCRAT SCRAT
WHILE WE'RE ON THE TOPIC OF COACHING...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT DELIA GIRL?
I MADE THESE LITTLE RUFFIANS HER RESPONSIBILITY!
DELIA?!

WHY?!
I DON'T GET IT!
THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON TO POSTPONE OUR MEETING UNTIL TODAY.
YOU ONLY DID IT SO I'D MISS THE GAME!

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
SURE!
YOU'RE QUITE ENTERTAINING!
CHOCOLATE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
YOU'VE BEEN WHINING FOR HALF AN HOUR.
THERE MUST BE SOME REASON BEHIND ALL THIS DRAMA.
IF YOUR DUTIES HERE AREN'T IMPORTANT, YOU'RE FREE TO GO AT ANY TIME!

I GUESS I HOPED OUR FRIENDSHIP WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU!
...
ANYWAY...
...I'M SURE I'D NEVER REALLY GET IT!
BUT EVEN IF I KNEW WHAT IT WAS...
MEH.
FINE, WHATEVER. JEEZ.
HMPH.
I GUESS I DIDN'T EXPECT ANY OTHER ANSWER.

I CAN SEE WHICH SIDE YOU'VE CHOSEN.
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
OKAY, GUESS IT'S TIME TO GO!
DELIA!
I RESPECT YOUR DECISION.
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST KNOW THIS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
DECISION?
YAAAAAA
GET OFF!
CUT THAT OUT!

DAMMIT, LET GO OF MY ARM!
WANKER!
AHH... THAT'S NOT THE MAGIC WORD.
SNAP!
SAY THE MAGIC WORD!
OWWWW...

SO STUPID...
MY DREAM OF HAVING MY OWN TEAM WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
MAYBE THEY'LL WANT ME ON THE HOCKEY TEAM...
HUH?
HEYYY!
WAAAH
...OR THE CHESS CLUB!

!
O!!!!!...
AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING?
...I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!
AT LEAST *PRETEND* THAT YOU'RE SWEET LITTLE KIDS!
THE PRINCIPAL IS WATCHING.
IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN...
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED.

SQUITCH
SQUITCH
THREE MORE MINUTES.
ONLY THREE MINUTES LEFT?
I WANT TO SEE A GOAL!
!
GET BACK TO THE GAME!
wave
IS THAT IT?!
GREGOR'S NOT GONNA GET PUNISHED?

IT DOES SEEM FAIR SOMEHOW...
PUNISHED?
ONE OF YOUR PLAYERS TRIED TO BREAK HIS OPPONENT'S ARM.
!
AND THE FUNNY LITTLE ONE JUST STOOD HERE AND GIGGLED!
AND THAT'S NOT EVEN MENTIONING...
...THE FRESH MOUTH YOU'VE GOT ON YOU!

THERE SHOULD BE A PUNISHMENT!
YUP, YOU'RE RIGHT!
IT'S YOUR BIG MOMENT, SWEETIE!
B-BUT... WHAT SHOULD I...
COME ON, JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED. DO JULIA A FAVOR!

BE CREATIVE AND DO--
NiA
HA
HA
HAA AHAHHAA
IT'S...
IT'S REALLY JUST TOO FUNNY!